UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,358	03/10/2004	Mei-Yuh Hwang	M61.12-0633	4338

27366   7590   05/19/2008
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EXAMINER
JACKSON, JAKIEDA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/19/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 February 2008*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are pending in the application.
  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   In response to the Office Action mailed November 9, 2007, applicant submitted

an amendment filed on February 8, 2008, in which the applicant amended claims to

overcome the rejection

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant previously argued that the prior art cited does not teach using mutual

information score to combine the first and second graphoneme units into a larger

graphoneme unit. However, Applicant's arguments are not persuasive in view of new

grounds of rejections. The Office apologizes for any inconvenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
> another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
> granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
> 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
> of such treaty in the English language.

4.   **Claims 1-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Griniasty (PGPUB 2003/0088416).

Regarding **claim 1**, Griniasty discloses a method of segmenting words into component parts, the method comprising:

determining mutual information scores for graphoneme units, each graphoneme unit comprising at least one letter in the spelling of a word (determining a score for characterizing the statistical connection between letters and phonemes; paragraphs 0012-0016);

using the mutual information scores to combine graphoneme units into a larger graphoneme unit (summing the scores; paragraphs 0016-0017); and

segmenting words into component parts to form a sequence of graphonemes (segmentation; paragraphs 0014-0015).

Regarding **claim 2**, Griniasty discloses a method wherein combining graphonemes comprises combining the letters of each graphoneme to produce a sequence of letters for the larger graphoneme unit and combining the phones of each graphoneme to produce a sequence of phones for the larger graphoneme unit ("L, OW"; paragraphs 0012 and 0016-0017).

Regarding **claim 3**, Griniasty discloses a method further comprising using the segmented words to generate a model (HMM; paragraph 0009).

Regarding **claim 4**, Griniasty discloses a method wherein the model describes the probability of a graphoneme unit given a context within a word (phoneme pair; paragraphs 0016-0017).

Regarding **claim 5**, Griniasty discloses a method further comprising using the model to determine a pronunciation of a word given the spelling of the word (phonemes that make up the spoken word; paragraph 0010).

Regarding **claim 6**, Griniasty discloses a method wherein using the mutual information scores comprises summing at least two mutual information scores determined for a single larger graphoneme unit to form a strength (higher score; paragraphs 0016-0017).

Regarding **claim 7**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions (implemented in software for execution within a computer; paragraph 0013, with the computer memory which is inherent in a computer system reading on the claimed "medium") for performing steps comprising:

determining mutual information scores for pairs of graphoneme units found in a set of words, each graphoneme unit comprising at least one letter (letters; paragraphs 0012-0015);

combining the graphoneme units of one pair of graphonome units to form a new graphoneme unit based on the mutual information scores ("L, OW"; paragraphs 0013-0017); and

identifying a set of graphoneme units for a word based in part on the new graphoneme unit (phoneme pair; paragraphs 0013-0014.

Regarding **claim 8**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium wherein combining the graphoneme units comprises combining the letters (letters) of the

graphoneme units to form a sequence of letters for the new graphoneme unit (series of letters; paragraph 0010).

Regarding **claim 9**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium wherein combining (arrange) the graphoneme units further comprises combining the phones of the graphoneme units to form a sequence (series) of phones for the new gaphoneme unit (paragraph 0010).

Regarding **claim 10**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium further comprising identifying a set of graphonemes for each word in a dictionary (phonetic dictionary; paragraph 0011).

Regarding **claim 11**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium further comprising using the sets of graphonemes identified for the words in the dictionary to train a model (train model; paragraphs 0009-0012).

Regarding **claim 12**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium wherein the model describes the probability of a graphoneme unit appearing in a word (phoneme pair; paragraphs 0012-0017).

Regarding **claim 13**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium wherein the probability is based on at least one other graphoneme unit in the word (phoneme pair; paragraphs 0012-0017).

Regarding **claim 14**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium further comprising using the model to determine a pronunciation for a word given the spelling of the word (phonemes that make up the spoken word; paragraphs 0010 and 0023).

Regarding **claim 15**, Griniasty discloses a computer-readable medium wherein combining graphoneme units based on the mutual information score comprises summing at least two mutual information scores associated with a new graphoneme unit (summing scores; paragraphs 0016-0017).

Regarding **claim 16**, Griniasty discloses a method of segmenting a word into syllables, the method comprising:

segmenting a set of words into phonetic syllables (phoneme segmentation) using mutual information scores (scores; paragraphs 0012-0017);

using the segmented set of words to train a syllable n-gram model (HMM; paragraph 0009-0011); and

using the syllable n-gram model to segment a phonetic representation of a word into syllables via forced alignment (phonemes that make up the spoke word; paragraphs 0010 and 0023).

Regarding **claim 17**, Griniasty discloses a method of segmenting a word into morphemes, the method comprising:

segmenting a set of words into morphemes using mutual information scores (segmentation of phonemes; paragraphs 0012-0017);

using the segmented set of words to train a morpheme n-gram model (train model; paragraphs 0009-0012); and

using the morpheme n-gram model to segment a word into morphemes via forced alignment (phoneme segmentation; paragraphs 0012-0017).

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

- Carcus et al. (USPN 6,185,524) disclose a method and apparatus for automatic

  identification of word boundaries in continuous text and computation of word

  boundary scores.

- Iizuka (PGPUB 2001/0009009) disclose a character string dividing or separating

  method and related system for segmenting agglutinative text or document into

  words.

- Lee (USPN 6,067,520) discloses a system and method of recognizing continuous

  mandarin speech utilizing Chinese Hidden Markov Models.

- Chou et al. (USPN 6,505,151) disclose a method for dividing sentences into

  phrases using entropy calculation of word combinations based on adjacent

  words.

- Okimoto et al. (PGPUB 2005/0256715) disclose a language model generation

  and accumulation device.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jakieda R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-

272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30am-

2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JRJ

May 10, 2008

/David R Hudspeth/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626